Research on Chatsworth area Mr. Bakker 1869 Smoking Pipe

By: Dale C. Maley

With coffee mug for scale.

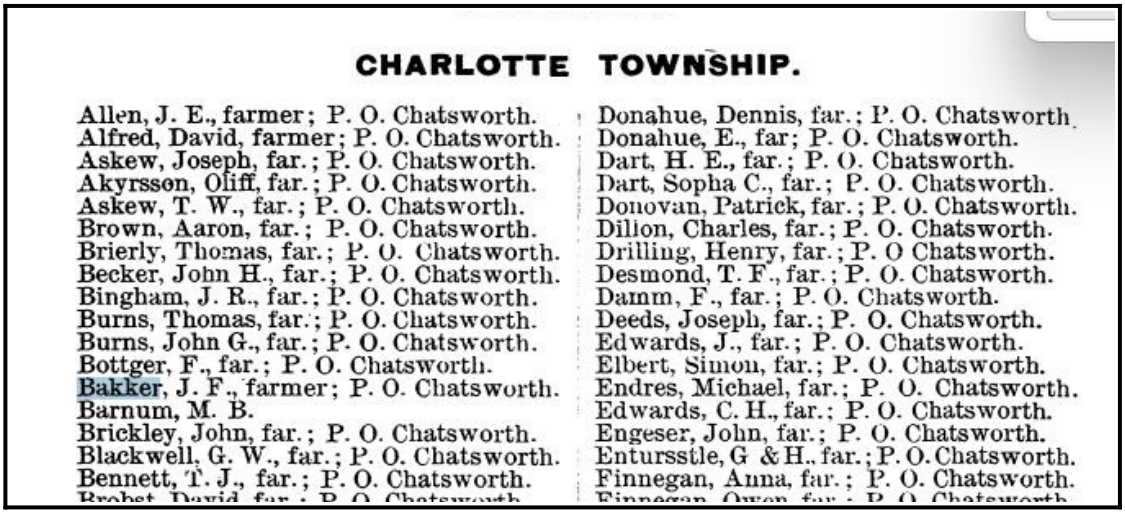
Use ChatGPT to “unfold” the inscription and make it flat.

ChatGPT Analysis of Pipe Photo

Pipe was likely a commemorative type item for something special that happened in 1869. So look for a significant event that happened to him in 1869. From residue in the bowl of the pipe, somebody has used it, it was not just a decorative pipe that sat on the mantle shelf.

Livingston County History Books:

1878



CHARLOTTE TOWNSHIP.

Allen, J. E., farmer; P. O. Chatsworth.
Alfred, David, farmer; P. O. Chatsworth.
Askew, Joseph, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Akyrsson, Oliff, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Askew, T. W., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Brown, Aaron, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Brierly, Thomas, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Becker, John H., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Bingham, J. R., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Burns, Thomas, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Burns, John G., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Bottger, F., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Bakker, J. F., farmer; P. O. Chatsworth.
Barnum, M. B.
Brickley, John, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Blackwell, G. W., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Bennett, T. J., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Brobst, David, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.

Donahue, Dennis, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Donahue, E., far; P. O. Chatsworth.
Dart, H. E., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Dart, Sopha C., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Donovan, Patrick, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Dillon, Charles, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Drilling, Henry, far.; P. O Chatsworth.
Desmond, T. F., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Damm, F., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Deeds, Joseph, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Edwards, J., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Elbert, Simon, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Endres, Michael, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Edwards, C. H., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Engeser, John, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Entursstle, G & H., far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Finnegan, Anna, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.
Finnegan, Owen, far.; P. O. Chatsworth.

Only entry in 1878 history book is above, showing he was a farmer in Chatsworth.

1888, 1900, 1909 Vol 2 History Books

No entries for Bakker

Federal Bureau of Land Management – Did he buy any land from federal government?

No

Obit for his son in 01/10/1935 Chatsworth Plain Dealer

SIXTY-FIRST YEAR

LIVED THREE SCORE YEARS IN SAME HOME

John Bakker, of Charlotte, Dies Thursday—Funeral Saturday.

John Bakker a lifelong resident of the Charlotte community, died at his home Thursday evening, January 3, 1935, at the age of 60 years, one month and 18 days.

Until last year, Mr. Bakker enjoyed good health. Since last fall, his health had been failing and medical advice was sought. His condition was not considered serious until the Christmas holidays, when he was stricken with the flu, and other complications developed, terminating in his death.

Funeral Saturday

Funeral services were conducted from the home of Harm Frieden at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon, January 5, and from the Charlotte Evangelical church at 1:30 o'clock. Rev. H. E. Kasch was in charge. Interment was made in Chatsworth cemetery.

Native of Community

John Bakker was born on the 16th day of November, 1874, in Charlotte township, Livingston county, Illinois. He was the son of John F. and Anna Ulrich Bakker, pioneers of this community.

He spent his entire life in the same community. The home of his birth was also the place of his demise. He attended public school and when old enough to choose his vocation decided on farming. He was a successful farmer and seemed to enjoy his work.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister. He is survived by a brother, Frank Bakker, and three sisters, Mrs. Anna Frieden, Mrs. Fannie Harms and Miss Maggie Bakker; also a number of nieces and nephews and by many friends.

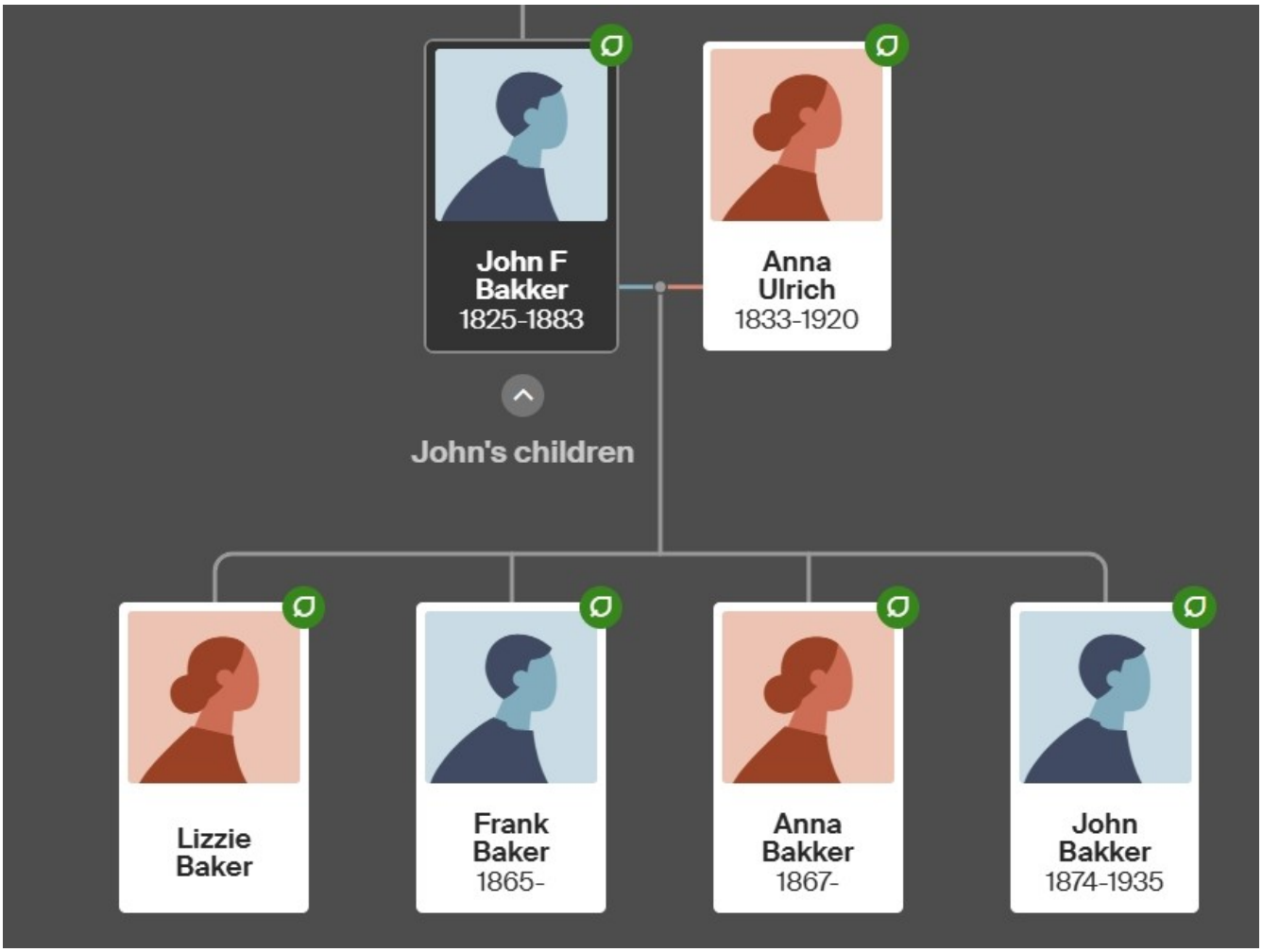
Was Highly Esteemed

As a neighbor and friend, Mr. Bakker was highly esteemed. He was retiring and unpretentious in his disposition, always ready to help his fellowmen and do a good turn as opportunity afforded. Early in life he was taken by his parents to the Charlotte Evangelical church where he attended Sunday school and came under religious influence. Though he never united with the church he had the interest of the same at heart and gave his moral and financial support to all its causes.

About 15 years ago he retired from active farming, but continued to live on the homestead with his sister and brother.

Ancestry.com

Use son's obit above to make family tree in Ancestry.com



NOTE: Family tree above may not be completely correct, just what I have at this time.

Looking for 1869 event, but birth of child, not evident yet.

1870 US Census

Farmer in Chatsworth

Household members

Name	Age
John Baker	47
Anna Baker	35
Frank Baker	5
Anna Baker	3
Lizzie Baker	6/12

1880 US Census

Farmer in Charlotte

Household members

Name	Age
Fannie Bakker	8
John Bakker	5
Maggie Bakker	3
John Bakker	55
Anna Bakker	42
Frank Bakker	15
Anna Bakker	13
Lizzie Bakker	10

Can I find obit for him or his wife?

Bakker in 1883

newspapers.com including pantagraph = no

Bakker in 1920

newspapers.com including pantagraph = no

Chatsworth Plaindealer

very tough one to search.

Neither 3/31/1883 or 4/7/1883 issues have an obit for pipe owner.

Pontiac Daily leader of earlier Sentinel:

no hits in 1883 to 1920 era for Bakker

Findagrave – maybe an obit

U.S., Find a Grave® Index, 1600s-Current

View record

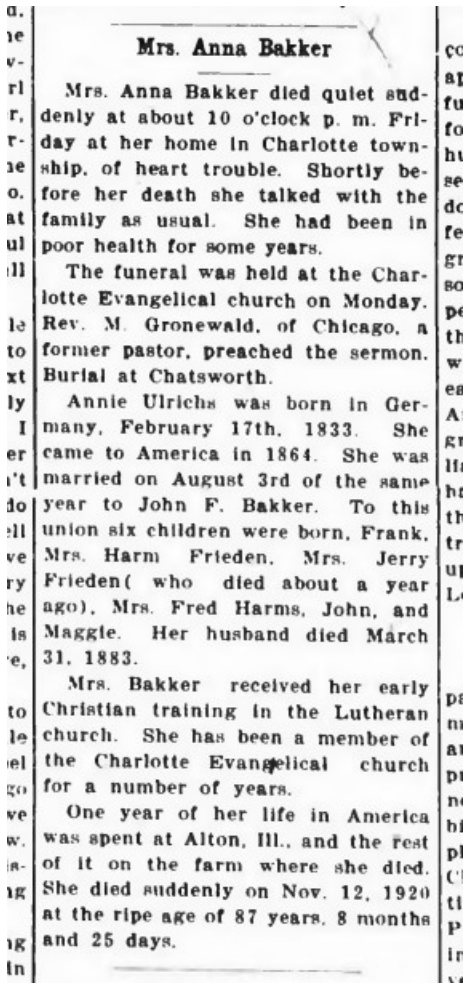
✧ Listen and explore

Name	**John F Bakker**
Gender	Male
Birth Date	3 May 1825
Death Date	31 Mar 1883
Cemetery	Chatsworth-Charlotte Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place	Chatsworth, Livingston County, Illinois, United States of America
Has Bio?	N
Spouse	Antena Bakker
Children	Frank Bakker; John Bakker; Maggie Bakker; Fannie Harms; Anna Elizabeth Frieden; Elizabeth Frieden

Fairbury Blade newspaper = no luck

Boy, tough to go any farther without his and her obits.

WHOOOPEEE – FOUND WIFE OBIT IN NOVEMBER 18, 1920 CHATSWORTH PLAINDEALER !!



Mrs. Anna Bakker

Mrs. Anna Bakker died quiet suddenly at about 10 o'clock p. m. Friday at her home in Charlotte township, of heart trouble. Shortly before her death she talked with the family as usual. She had been in poor health for some years.

The funeral was held at the Charlotte Evangelical church on Monday. Rev. M. Gronewald, of Chicago, a former pastor, preached the sermon. Burial at Chatsworth.

Annie Ulrichs was born in Germany, February 17th, 1833. She came to America in 1864. She was married on August 3rd of the same year to John F. Bakker. To this union six children were born, Frank, Mrs. Harm Frieden, Mrs. Jerry Frieden(who died about a year ago), Mrs. Fred Harms, John, and Maggie. Her husband died March 31, 1883.

Mrs. Bakker received her early Christian training in the Lutheran church. She has been a member of the Charlotte Evangelical church for a number of years.

One year of her life in America was spent at Alton, Ill., and the rest of it on the farm where she died. She died suddenly on Nov. 12, 1920 at the ripe age of 87 years, 8 months and 25 days.

Summary from ChatGPT

Personalized Porcelain Smoking Pipe, 1869

This decorated porcelain pipe belonged to Johann F. Bakker, an early German-American farmer in the Chatsworth area. The pipe is inscribed "Johann F. Bakker, Chatsworth, Livingston Co., Illinois, 1869." Although the reason for the date is unknown, it likely indicates the year the pipe was acquired or presented. Bakker was among the pioneer settlers of the Chatsworth-Charlotte community and died in 1883.

Location of the pipe as of June 2026

I plan on donating the pipe to Richard Runyon, Mayor of Chatsworth, who is in charge of their Bluebird museum.

Dale C. Maley
6/8/2026